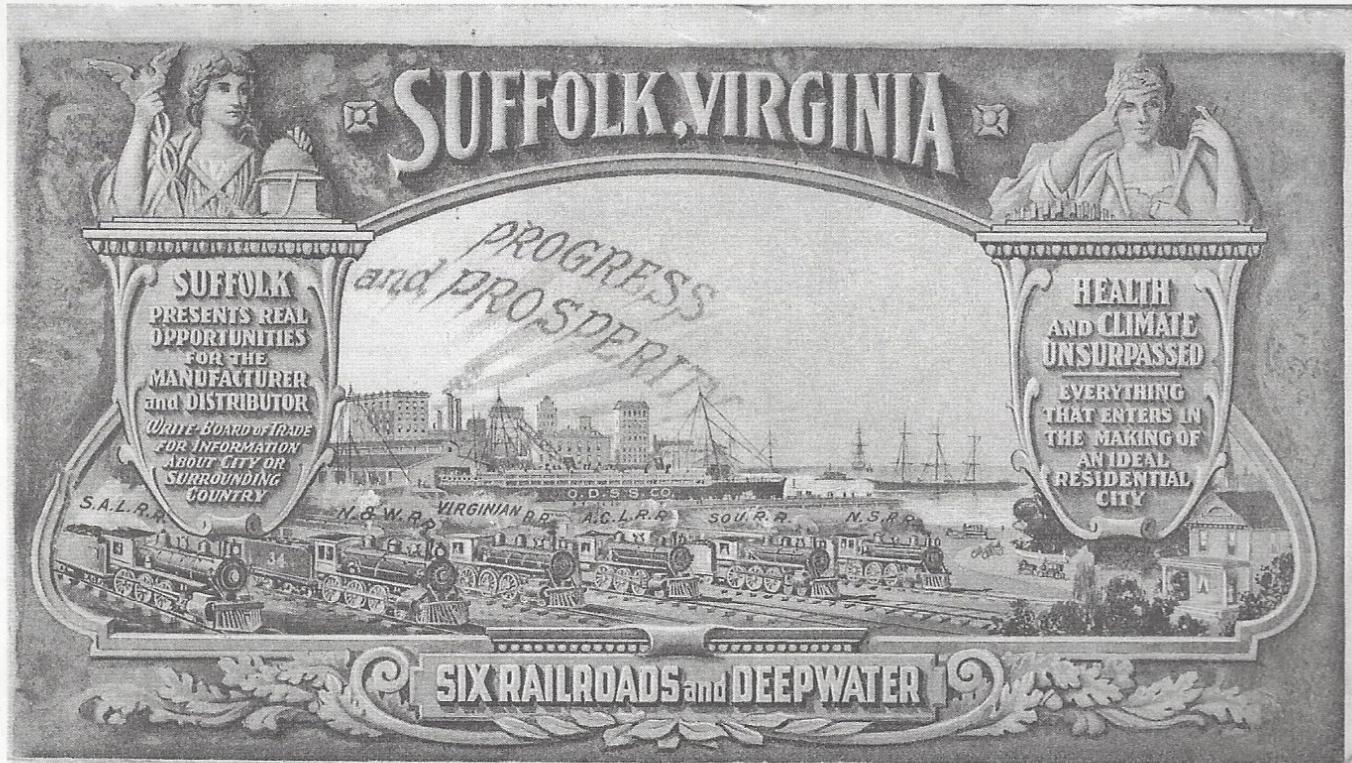




Volume 17, Issue 4

November 2008



This 1911 envelope or cover was issued by the Board of Trade to advertise fast growing little Suffolk. Courtesy of Andy Maxey.

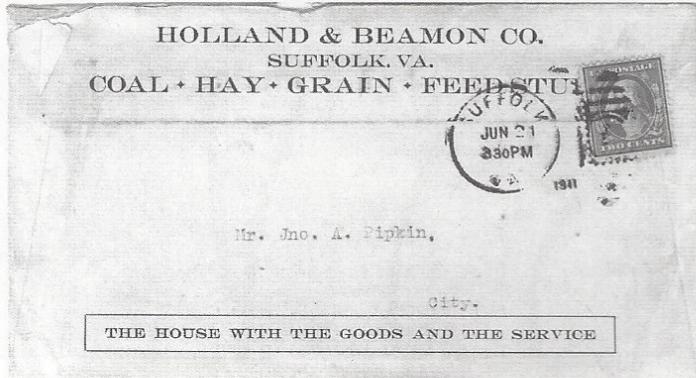
BOOMTOWN

This has been published before but it never ceases to amaze: according to a 1929 report from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Suffolk's population grew by 83% between 1900 and 1910. The next decade saw another 30% increase. During those years six railroads and a steamship line moved people and goods to and from Suffolk. The peanut was king, lumber mills were busy and there were many related businesses at work. Just as in our own decade, developers were busy opening new areas and adding to the City's housing stock. (Suffolk became a city in 1910.) Much of the growth was to the west of the original town.

Gray's Map of Suffolk of 1877 shows fewer than 30 buildings west of Pine Street. The 1894 Sanborn insurance map shows cultivated fields on the west side of Wellons Street. In the late 19th century there were private schools on this western edge of town. An 1888 publication advertises three private schools in this area east of Wellons Street.

In 1907 the Suffolk Methodist Church decided that the westward growth of the town was taking people so far from downtown that another church was needed in the western suburbs. In 1908 a Sunday School building was constructed on Smith Street near the then new Linden Avenue. However, in 1915 a lot was purchased at the corner of South Broad and West Washington Streets. In 2008 that church, Oxford Methodist, is celebrating 100 years in the west end of the old city/town of Suffolk.

This year's Candlelight Tour visits the following homes that were built in the booming first quarter of the 20th century when Suffolk's slogan was "Six Railroads and Deep Water to the Sea."



Address or flap side of above envelope.



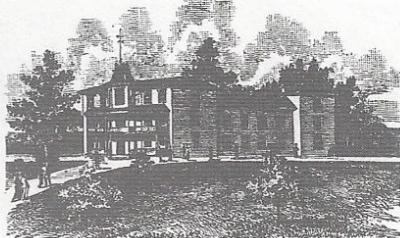
Current view

A **Vintage Linen Sale** will be held at the First Lady during the Tour. Shop here for a special gift.

Also, enjoy **Special Music** here at various times during the weekend.

Chartered 1872.

SUFFOLK COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE SUFFOLK, VA.



Preparatory, Practical or Finishing
—IN—
Classics, Mathematics, Sciences and the Fine Arts

ADEQUATE FACULTY.

DISCIPLINE.—Self-acting under Parental and Christian Direction. *Character* is primary, *Conduct* is resultant.

DOMESTIC ARRANGEMENTS.—Economical, substantial, home-like.

TERMS.—Reasonable. Both sexes admitted.

Session begins middle of September and ends the following June. For Catalogues and other information, address

PROF. P. J. KERNODLE, A. M., Principal.

1886 ad. It was on this site that J.C. Causey built his house.

1959

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND
THE FORMAL OPENING OF THE
NEW FURNITURE STORE OF
J. O. Hill & Company
439-443 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA
FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1959
9:00 A.M. TO 9:00 P.M.

The Causey House-The First Lady 447 W. Washington Street

The handsome house at 447 West Washington was built by James C. and Marguerite Crump Causey on the former site of the Suffolk Collegiate Institute (1872-1907), one of several private schools that operated in Suffolk in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Spanish American War veteran James Campbell Causey (1874-1930) was born in Suffolk, the son of a Confederate veteran and the grandson of lawyer and Clerk of Court Peter B. Prentis, who was one of the men taken hostage by the Union Army during the occupation of Suffolk. (Prentis was released and continued as Clerk of Court after the war.)

James Causey's family was prominent before the Civil War and his father, Charles Henry Causey, played an active role in rebuilding the local economy after the war. Causey himself was a lumberman who also engaged in the horse and mule business during the day when horsepower—real horsepower—was used in the logwoods and on the farm. Causey was also interested in horses as a sportsman and was on his way to judge a horse-show in Goldsboro, North Carolina, when he died in 1930.

The widowed Mrs. Causey sold the house to I. Owen Hill in 1935 and he moved part of his business—an undertaker's establishment—to this house. For many years this was I.O. Hill Funeral Home. In 1959 Hill built a new building next door for the rest of his business—I.O. Hill Furniture Store. That business closed in the early 1980s and in 1986 the building became Morgan Memorial Library.

This year the house is starting another chapter—as an events facility called The First Lady. Its usefulness continues.

Why That Name?

The new Prentis Street is named for Peter B. Prentis whose home is now the Suffolk Visitors Center. There was an earlier Prentis Street—part of present day Western Avenue once had that name. Peter Prentis was the grandfather of James C. Causey.

Causey Avenue is named for Charles Henry Causey, father of James C. Causey, who was at one time an officer in the Montrose Land Company along with John S. Gitting and William H. Bosley, for whom other streets were also named. These men were also directors of the Suffolk and Carolina Railroad.

The Broad Street Bridge was rebuilt a few years ago and named for James C. Causey, Jr., engineer and former Suffolk City Manager, who is said to have designed the second Pinner Street Bridge, the one prior to the present Pinner Street Bridge.

Wellons Street is named for Dr. William Brock Wellons, well-known minister of the Christian Church and Confederate chaplain. He helped start Suffolk's first successful bank postwar, published a newspaper and started a private school, all while preaching at several churches. (See page 5 this issue for more about Dr. Wellons.)

West Washington Street used to be Kilby Street, probably named for Thomas Jefferson Kilby who lived there. Before that it was called the South Quay Road. Lake Kilby is named for the same Kilbys and some rest in a cemetery at the waterworks on what was once Kilby land.

Announcement of the 1959 opening of the new furniture store. That building is now Morgan Memorial Library.



Current view

The Holland-Fuller House

512 West Washington Street

This lot was part of the Brewer Place development that was started in 1909. One assumes that Mr. A. T. Holland (1860-1939) built his new home soon after the land purchase as soon as the lots were offered. Mr. Holland must have been a rather well-to-do businessman. In the days when the peanut-based economy was on the ascendancy, Holland, who had invented a peanut sorting machine, was Vice President of the Suffolk Peanut Company, peanut processors, and President and General Manager of Holland and Lee, buyers and handlers of peanuts.

The Holland family lived here for many years. The ensuing years have brought several different families to the handsome old place. Current owner, Alice Fuller.



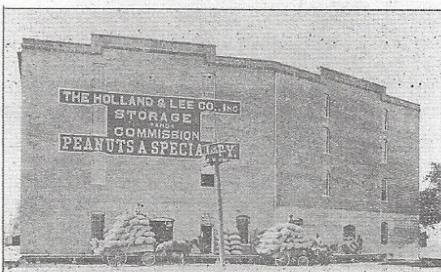
A.T. Holland

Holland historian Bobby Jones tells us that Holland & Lee started in Holland, Virginia. Mr. Holland and his business partner, P.H. Lee, a Confederate veteran, were both from the Holland area.

THE HOLLAND & LEE CO., INC.,
Suffolk, Virginia
STORAGE & COMMISSION
PEANUTS *A SPECIALTY*

Suffolk is the Largest Peanut Market in the World

6 --LARGE FACTORIES-- 6
Annual Value, - - \$6,000,000.00



We respectfully solicit consignments of farmers' goods, either for storage or prompt sale, to which we will give our careful and personal attention, and are prepared to make liberal advances on all shipments for storage or prompt sales, either.

For further information, call, phone or write us.

THE HOLLAND & LEE CO., Inc.,
SUFFOLK, VA.

Right, circa 1912 photo, with closed shutters and open awnings, the air conditioning of the period.



THE SUFFOLK PEANUT CO. *SUFFOLK, VA.*

CLEANERS AND SHELLERS

GRADERS AND WHOLESALERS

VIRGINIA & SPANISH PEANUTS

JUMBO FANCY HAND PICKED NO. 1 VIRGINIA PEANUTS

RANGE HAND PICKED NO. 1 VIRGINIA PEANUTS

EXTRA HAND PICKED NO. 1 VIRGINIA PEANUTS

PEACOCK FAMILY H.P. VIRGINIA PEANUTS

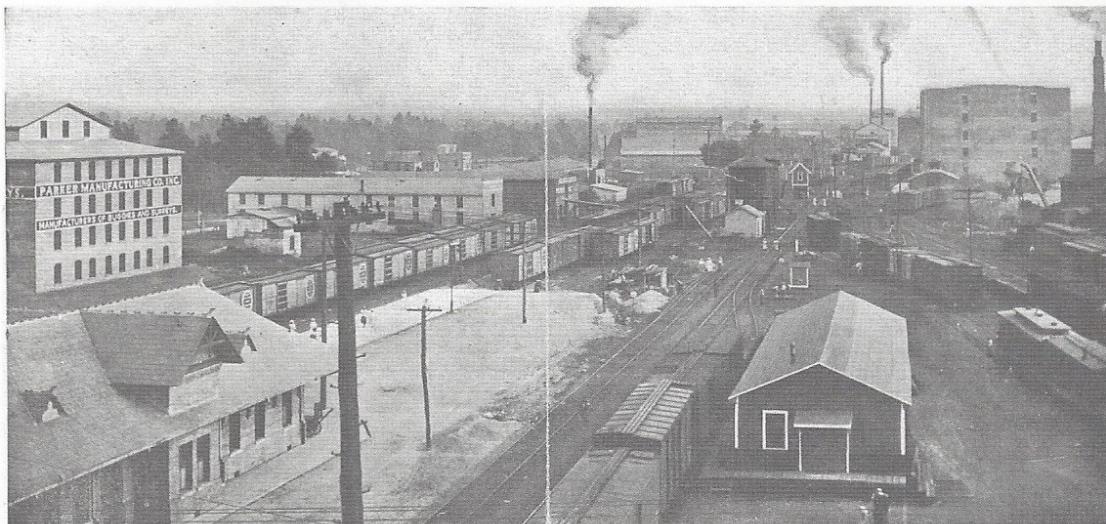
THE SUFFOLK PEANUT CO.

FAC. FOR PEANUTS

WAREHOUSE

ADMITTED

Ads c. 1912



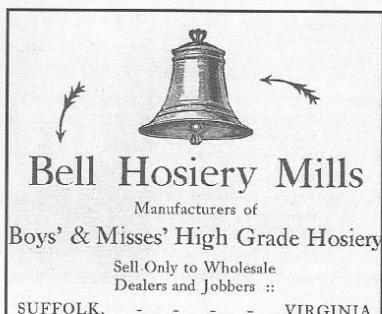
The factory district in Suffolk c. 1918. This appeared in a promotional brochure called Suffolk in a Nutshell that used the slogan "Six Railroads and Deep Water to the Sea."

The railroad station in the bottom left corner is the Atlantic Coastline station. This view is looking south from East Washington Street.

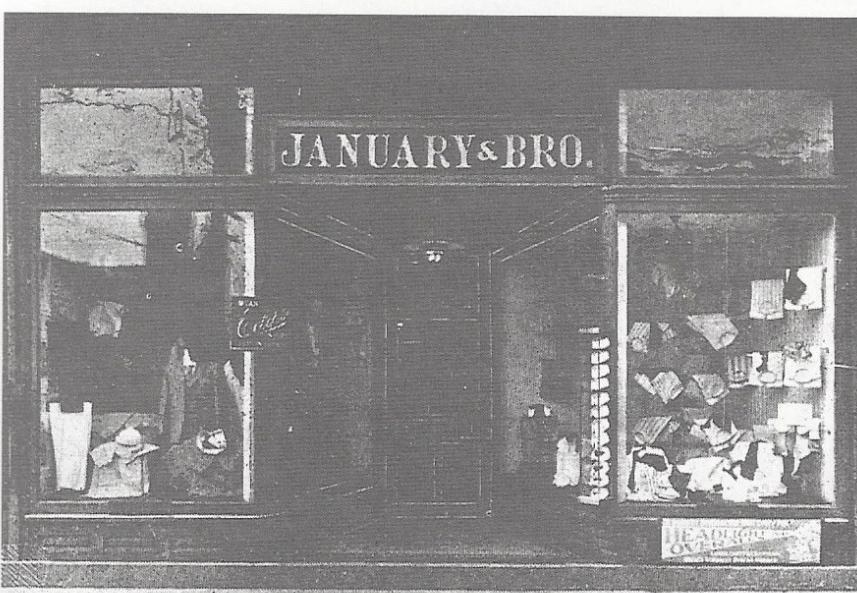
The Davis-Signore-Lehman House

128 Brewer Avenue

This stylish house was built perhaps c. 1920 for James L. Bell and his family. Reportedly the house was quite *avant garde* and had "the finest of everything." The house history followed, in many ways, Suffolk's business history in the 20th century.



Ad c. 1912

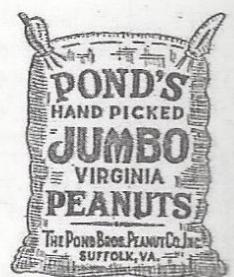


C. 1912 ad. This store was on the 100 block of West Washington St. The business was later moved to Main St. and called January's.

Bell owned Bell Hosiery Mill, formerly Cobb's Knitting Mill, which was in the factory district near the Planters factory. It was part of the pre-Depression boom in Suffolk and elsewhere. The business did not survive the Depression. That building is gone now.

The next owners (for a few years) were Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Pond who came to Suffolk to participate in the great boom in the peanut business. He was one of the brothers in Pond Brothers Peanuts. Many, in fact, most of the families engaged in the large peanut businesses in Suffolk came from other areas. Many, like the Ponds, came from nearby mostly agricultural areas. In the case of the Ponds, Southampton County, Virginia, and Northampton County, North Carolina, were their previous homes.

Current view



Undated ad

The January family owned the house next. Hilary (read about him on Chestnut Street in "Christmas in the City" this issue) and his wife Mary Lee owned January's men's clothing store and were part of the once fairly large Jewish community that lived and worked in Suffolk.

Next came Attorney William Davis with his wife and children. They lived in the house more than 25 years—longer than any other family to date. Current owners, the Signore-Lehman family.

Main Street



Main Street. This c. 1916 view of the present day 100 block of North Main Street, looking north from Washington Street, shows the retail part of the street. The residential section starts near the trees.

Main Street used to be numbered from the river end. This would have been the 500 block a century ago. By this time Suffolk had three banks that would soon all be in this block.

The Green-Pruitt House

125 Linden Avenue

It is likely that this house was built c. 1900 by Hugh Kelley but Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Green owned the property longer than anyone else to date. Mr. Green chartered a lumber company in Suffolk in 1903 but by 1920 the census indicates that he was a mattress salesman. It is characteristic of a boom town that there are ups and downs.

The house is built of rockface or molded concrete block, a building material that enjoyed a certain burst of popularity in the very early part of the 20th century. Another building nearby, 509 Smith Street, is constructed of the same material. See photo below.

This charming house has had several owners. The current ones, Mr. and Mrs. John Pruitt, have been here since 1974.



Current view

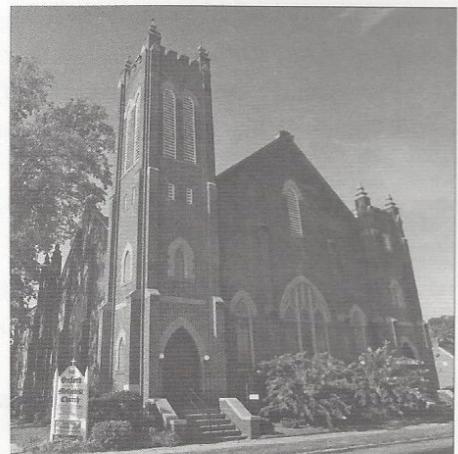


509 Smith Street—Sunday School building of Oxford Methodist Church, dedicated June 21, 1908. This is now the Linden Apartments and has been modified since this picture; the porches are gone and it has a brick front now. The Sanctuary which was planned to be built in the foreground was never built due to the relocation of the church.

A New Church

In the early part of the 20th century, the boom years, Suffolk was growing, especially to the west. The downtown Methodists felt a need to provide a church for those people moving so far away from the hub of town. Smith Street was their choice at first, then a lot on West Washington Street at South Broad seemed more appealing. Oxford is 100 years old this year.

The first five members of the church were Col. and Mrs. R. L. Brewer, Jr., who lived on West Washington at the corner of Wellons; Mr. Joshua C. West, Jr., who lived on West Washington Street; and Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Harris, who lived on Brewer Avenue until they built a new house on Causey Avenue in the 1920s.



Current view of Oxford Methodist Church at the corner of West Washington and Broad Streets.

Newsworthy

This western part of the old town was home to two newspapers. Professor P. J. Kernodle of the Suffolk Collegiate Institute published the *Suffolk Observer*, a weekly journal that was distributed on the streets of Suffolk every Thursday for years. The first paper was issued in 1889. The last issue date is unknown.

Dr. W. B. Wellons, whose home was once on W. Washington Street at the corner of St. James Avenue, published a paper called *The Christian Sun* for more than twenty years. Through its columns he was always a defender of Christian faith and principles.

Wellons was also founder and minister of a number of local churches including Berea, Bethlehem, Oakland and Suffolk Christian.

He served as a Confederate chaplain. He helped to start the first successful bank in Suffolk post-war.

Dr. Wellons was president of Suffolk Collegiate Institute. It is said that the idea for Elon College grew from Suffolk Collegiate Institute. A later minister of Suffolk Christian Church, W. W. Staley, served as non-resident President of Elon for eleven years without pay beginning in 1894, while still serving as minister of the Suffolk church.



Dr. William Brock Wellons
1821-1877

West End Seminary

FOR

YOUNG LADIES AND GIRLS,

SUFFOLK, VA.

COL. WM. H. DARREN,
MISS NOVELLA S. DARREN, Principals.

Or. MISS LIZZIE J. KING,
Associate.

Suffolk Military Academy.

ESTABLISHED IN 1875.

The following constitute an able and experienced Faculty:
JOSEPH KING, A. M., Principal (with 27 years' experience as a teacher).
REV. ROWLAND DOGGETT, A. M., (Randolph-Macon), Associate.
P. ST. JULIEN WILSON (Va. Military Institute).
DR. W. W. MURRAY (Dublin University).
DR. A. W. ELEY, DR. E. D. PHILLIPS, attending Physicians.
JOSEPH KING, A. M., Principal.
Or REV. ROWLAND DOGGETT, A. M., Associate.
Suffolk, Va.

Above: 1888 ads for two schools on Kilby Street, now known as West Washington Street.



Current view

The Kilby-Pollard House

201 Linden Avenue

Wallace Richardson Kilby (1871-1944) was a Spanish-American War veteran like James C. Causey and, like Causey, he was from a prominent old Suffolk family. Also like Causey, he was engaged in the lumber business. His branch of the family lived on Main Street but he sought land in the new part of town. He bought the lot at the corner of Smith Street and Linden Avenue in 1908. Construction must have started right away.

The commodious house with its floor-to-ceiling windows and iron cresting on the roof faced the park-like median on the newer section of Linden Avenue. The large lot offered space for a beautiful garden. Kilby was likely very proud to put the K in the frosted glass of the front door.

The first floor of this handsome house was open for Garden Tour this past spring. Candlelight Tour guests are fortunate to be invited to see the second floor as well. Owners are Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Pollard.

Though they have been in Suffolk less than a decade, the Pollards have been very involved in historic preservation. Mr. Pollard was responsible for creating the Montgomery Lofts at the old Montgomery Ward Building on North Main Street.

The Schadel-Krzemien House

211 Linden Avenue

The comfortable house at 211 Linden Avenue was built c. 1910, possibly by William Brinkley. For decades, however, it was the Schadel home.

Carl Schadel (1891-1981) was one of the specialists brought here early in the twentieth century by Amedeo Obici to build his new plant in Suffolk. Schadel arrived on a motorcycle.

In 1919 Schadel opened his Carl Schadel Sheet Metal Works. A 1942 ad says "among our outstanding government contracts are the heating plants at Fort Story and Camp Pendleton and the ductwork for McGill Field in Tampa, Florida . . . also ventilating work on the Cavalier Hotel at Virginia Beach and the Whittier School of Hampton Institute . . ."

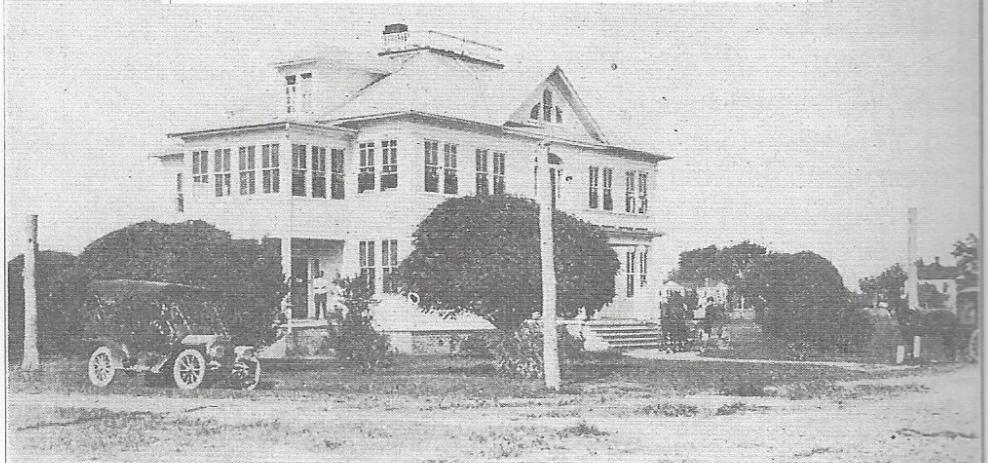
For about twenty-five years the house was two apartments. Now it has become a well-loved single family home once again. Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Krzemien, owners.



Current view

Lakeview Hospital, Inc.

(FOUNDED IN 1905)



Lakeview Hospital was built on Bosley Avenue in 1905. One account says that it was called "the hospital in a field" because it was so far from town. This hospital grew over the years and covered, with its various buildings and grounds, the whole block across from today's Suffolk Museum. It closed in the early 1950's when Louise Obici Memorial Hospital opened.

The c. 1912 ad from which this picture was taken offers private rooms, \$15-\$25 per week; ward, \$1.00 per day.

The Constantia House – Sugar Plum Kitchen

Behind R. W. Baker & Co. Funeral Home

This little house has a history that far predates the 1742 charter of Suffolk. John Constant, believed to be the first permanent English settler in Suffolk, started a wharf and trading center that was the beginning of the town.

He built a small frame house on the hill overlooking the river and the land on which it stood came to be called *Constantia*.

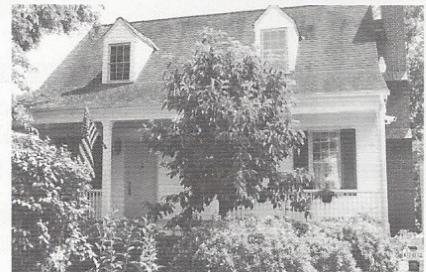
After the Revolutionary War the Church of England was abandoned and around 1802 the town fathers bought the south end of Constantia. There they constructed a chapel to be used by all denominations. The land around the chapel was used for burials. That's how Cedar Hill Cemetery started. More and more land was bought over the years.

In the 1920s the Constantia Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution took a good look at the decaying home of their namesake. They tore it down and built a replica on the same site in the graveyard.

For years it stayed there, sometimes hosting D.A.R. gatherings. However, by the late 20th century vandalism had taken a terrible toll on the little building and it was offered to anyone who would move it. Robert Baker accepted the challenge.

In its third life the Constantia House is behind R.W. Baker & Co. Funeral Home. The replica has been lovingly reconstructed there. In its small front yard is another piece of history—the largest redwood tree in Virginia.

On tour days come warm your hands at the hearth and shop at the Sugar Plum Kitchen—a very special sale of homemade delicacies.



Current view



This c. 1918 view of the Square (now the 100 block of West Washington Street) shows I.O. Hill Furniture Dealer and Undertakers in the bottom right foreground. R.W. Baker & Co. was nearby.

Furniture and Funerals

Historically, undertakers were furniture dealers, too. In fact, the funeral homes in the white community in Suffolk that were best known in the 20th century--I.O. Hill and R.W. Baker--each called themselves Furniture Dealers and Undertakers (furniture listed first) from the 19th century well into the 20th. (One supposes that might have started with the coffin maker building bookcases and tables in his spare time.)

HALL & HOLT



Furniture Dealers and Undertakers

SUFFOLK, VA.

SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO UNDERTAKING IN ALL ITS BRANCHES.

Orders by mail or telegraph promptly attended to.

1886 ad from Pollock's Sketchbook

I.O. Hill (1862-1945) came to Suffolk from Gates County, North Carolina, in 1889 and in 1890 went to work for Hall and Holt (see ad). He worked for five months then he was told that the business was closing. He used \$25.00 he had saved to start his own business (actually, to buy Hall & Holt). The business was in the 100 block of West Washington. Furniture was a major part of the business for many years.

I.O. Hill bought the house at 447 West Washington Street (see p. 2) in 1935 as a new home for the undertaking business. His son Bayard (1898-1971) followed his father in the business. It was he who moved the furniture business to a new building on the lot beside the funeral home in 1959. That building now houses Morgan Memorial Library. Bayard, who was also mayor of Suffolk 1941 to 1947, died in 1971. Eventually the business was sold, the name was changed and the building was sold.

R. W. Baker (1848-1928) started his furniture and undertaking business in Suffolk in 1885.

Though he was a furniture dealer first, he also practiced and taught the business of undertaking. Baker's business was also originally downtown. In 1941 the Baker family bought the beautiful old home at 509 West Washington Street and, after extensive renovations, moved the undertaking business there. Baker's furniture business stayed downtown until it closed in 1966. R.W. Baker & Co. is now operated by the fourth and fifth generations of the family.

Beside the Constantia House behind R.W. Baker & Co., tour visitors can see the horse-drawn hearse used by the early generations of the Bakers.

Christmas in Town

Chestnut Street—1910s & 1920s

This was written by former SNHS President Ann Hargrave Burton for her childhood friends and neighbors from Chestnut Street, in those days an attractive street of owner-occupied houses.

Some readers will know the Chestnut Street gang but for others we've included footnotes. We hope you'll enjoy the spirit of the tale.

Dear One-Time Neighbor,

This morning (New Year's Day 1980) I began to think in a detailed way about childhood Christmas holidays. I suppose it was the new decade jogging my memory. Suddenly I could smell cedar and oranges and see the boys and girls I grew up with on Chestnut Street. All the chestnut trees are gone now but three and the children scattered, many with grandchildren of their own.

There were so many of us on our one block. Next to the southeast corner lived James Booth with Moody and Frances Stallings next door. (1) I wonder if Frances remembers how long she was everybody's doll and known as "Sister Baby." I lived next door, with neighbors on the north I want to save for a special paragraph.

Helen Shepherd Riddick and her brother, Burwell, Jr., came next. (2) Then their first cousins, Sarah, Florence, James and Grace Saunders, lived in the big Butler house. Next to the corner was the home of Bob and Caroline Tynes. Hilary and Gladys January lived on the corner; we didn't know very much about their Hanukkah celebration, but they were our friends, and all the girls thought Hilary was so handsome.

Fewer children lived across the street, but Mary Virginia and William Johnson balanced the rest of us with their energy and imagination—not to mention pranks. (Remember the rabbits? There were so many we each had our own to play with.) There were two "more grown-up children" on this west side of the block: Miss Dorothy Batten and soon-to-be Doctor Richardson Joyner. (3) "Dossie" was almost Mary Virginia's private property, and Richardson was away a lot, but both were definitely in this cast of characters.

We celebrated Christmas Day to the hilt—early and late. Christmas trees were generally cedar and decorated with real wax candles (calling for much parental anguish and supervision) and really beautiful ornaments. Many of these were Pre-WWI German, whose colors and hand-painted designs have never been duplicated. There were also chains of small balls rarely seen now. I remember the year Mary Virginia enthusiastically offered her hair in lieu of gold tinsel; Miss India stopped her just in time.

 First the stockings—the dime store kind of sequined red felt and the sophisticated needlepoints hadn't been invented. So, we probably used a clean every-day one. Mine were the long white variety, and I've never seen another so mysteriously and deliciously bumpy and lumpy in my whole life.

There was constant up, down, and across the street traffic as everybody rushed to see what everybody else got. However, no set of presents was official until Richardson's mother had checked it out. Mrs. Walter Joyner, one of the world's most original people, was genuinely interested in every single package. She wanted to know what it was, who gave it, and then she applied descriptive terms uniquely her own.

There were always doll babies for the girls; again the German ones were superior—so life-like. Then we "graduated" to the gorgeous three-foot variety with real blond or brunette curls and very fancy pink or blue lacy dresses. There was a roller-skate Christmas—pity the poor Dukes, who had the only concrete sidewalk and pavement on the block. Can you ever forget billy-goat Christmas? Santa Claus must have had a time with James Saunders'; his had the widest curled horns and pulled such a rakish sulky. Burwell and William made up the parade—each billy and each cart with character all its own. I mustn't forget bicycle Christmas. That was really something as we ventured around the North Street block with chrome shining and bells ringing.

In "our time" fireworks were a most important part of the celebration. Santa Claus supplied a great quantity and variety; the boys leaned toward the noisemakers like strings of fire-crackers, the really big singles, and others called set-on-prunes by Mrs. Joyner. We liked to drag them along brick copings and iron fences because they crackled and smelt wickedly of sulphur. Everybody had sparklers, the small size and sometimes, oh joy, the big, big ones that lasted and lasted. We could light these ourselves from punk sticks, but adult assistance was obligatory for the really beautiful ones so that the skyrockets were angled just right and Roman candles weren't pointed in each other's faces.

Christmas dinners must have been about the same up and down the block. We always joined the uncles, aunts, and cousins across the street at Grandmother Applewhite's house: roast turkey, oyster dressing, gravy, creamed potatoes, numerous other vegetables, pickles, cranberry sauce, hot rolls, coffee and milk, tipsy cake and wine jelly with custard. When the table was finally cleared, bowls of raisins, nuts, and hard candies were set out. A week later the whole thing was repeated at our house with some of the Newport News relatives present too.

I can't forget one Christmas that affected us all deeply—the one when Major Johnson met with a fatal accident. We could hardly comprehend what had happened—Christmas and tragedy at the same time. Mary Virginia and William were our friends and Miss India was their mother, so we shared their hurt and were strangely subdued.

The days between Christmas and New Year's were wonderful—no school and so many things to eat, ride, read, and learn to play. It was sort of a week-long block party. Sarah and I particularly enjoyed the holiday weddings her grandfather performed. We



Young Ann Hargrave



could always spot an arriving couple intent on becoming one. Sarah and I were allowed to sit in the back parlor to watch and listen as long as we were quiet. Usually we each grabbed a copy of The Delineator behind which we could retire if a fit of giggles threatened to overcome us. Miss Ethel would be summoned from the kitchen and would come promptly wiping her hands on her apron to sit at the piano and provide a few bars of the "Wedding March." Once when Miss Ethel was away, Mary Virginia's Aunt Doris obliged by throwing open their front windows and giving "Lohengrin" all she had. The ceremony would frequently be interrupted for the minister to inquire about the health of a bride or groom's relatives. The replies were so graphic and clinical that my magazine would shake uncontrollably, and Sarah would have to punch me.

I must not fail to mention a most important New Year's morning custom on Chestnut Street—the visit of the Reverend Harrison Butler (4) and Major Walter Joyner (5) to bring greetings and the hopes of the season to every single household. Nobody would have stirred outside before this rite. It would have been unseemly; furthermore, we were acutely aware that if a lady were so ill-informed as to make an earlier call, she would have brought bad luck for the whole year!

It was my privilege to live next door to the Stallings family whose last name was changed by me at a tender age to "Sox;" it was attached to every member including the hired man (Tommy) and the dog (Jenny). I loved them dearly and thought they belonged to me as much as to Moody and Frances. Mary Sox personified the Christmas spirit 365 days of the year and still does.

James Booth, Burwell, Bob, and William are gone now; all of the "children" moved off Chestnut, and only one has returned, but there's a warm feeling in the knowledge that some bonds can't be broken and some memories linger long.

Nostalgically,
Ann Hargrave Burton

Notes:

1. Moody Stallings would later become an attorney. His son "Sonny" Stallings has served in the Virginia General Assembly and practices law in Suffolk and Virginia Beach.
2. The Riddicks had a long line of Burwells and they took a relaxed attitude about keeping generations numbered properly. Perhaps this is actually Burwell Riddick #3 whose father designed the bungalows at College Court.
3. Doctor Richardson Joyner later practiced medicine from an office in the Chestnut Street house. The house was sold after his death and demolished to be replaced by another doctor's office that fronts on Market Street.
4. Rev. Harrison Holland Butler pastored Cypress Chapel, Bethlehem, Mt. Carmel and Isle of Wight, among other Christian Churches.
5. Major Walter Joyner was the grandfather of Marion Joyner Watson, for decades the guiding light of the Historical Society, and great-grandfather of Frances Clark, author of the Arcadia book *Suffolk and Nansemond County*. Joyner Park on Bank Street was named for him.

**Joyner's Park
City Play Ground**

Recreation Place Ample for all Pur-
poses Near Heart of City.

Headline from *The Suffolk Herald*
November 18, 1921

Christmas in the County

By Polly Brothers Simpson, written in 2001

I was born in 1931. My parents lived in Whaleyville, in Nansemond County, which is now Suffolk. Our nation was in the depths of depression. My parents had built a house on a lot my father had inherited when they married. We had central heat, electricity, a garden, a chicken coop and a large yard between my house and my grandparents' house. My grandparents had a working farm. They planted fields of cotton, peanuts and sometimes potatoes. They had cows, pigs, chickens, a smoke house, a wood shed and all the trappings of farm life. There was a cellar (with a cellar door), a loft in the barn and many places for children to play. Grandmother had fruit trees, grape vines, blackberry and blueberry bushes and a vegetable garden. The smoke house was for curing hams. Hog killing was a part of their lives—each year they made sausage, cracklings, chitterlings and other hog products. Chickens were killed fresh before cooking, picked and dressed. I picked chickens in mass, along with my sister, when my father bought a truck load for us to freeze in the large freezer at my grandfather's country store.

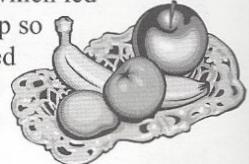
What did we children get from Santa for Christmas? From my earliest memories I recall our tree in the music room, decorated with large multi-colored lights and tinsel. At least one year we covered the branches with Ivory Snow batter to resemble snow. Our presents from Santa were under the tree when we awoke on Christmas morning. At least one year there was a puppy for my sister, a mixed breed rat terrier. We got practical gifts like bathrobes but each of us had a bicycle in the appropriate year, and skates. My brother had a train one year, and also a BB gun when he was maybe 7. At age 12, he got a .410 gun which he used for hunting squirrels and small game. He dressed the kill, my mother cooked it and we had a good meal of squirrel, sweet potatoes and home canned vegetables from the garden. The gun was a double purpose gift. Boys his age loved to hunt and the small animals were meat for the table. Cash was in short supply but we had an abundance of food and plenty of hand-me-down clothes.



Our stockings had an orange in the toe, chocolate drops, Brazil nuts, tangerines, raisins and sometimes boxes of sparklers. We received a second stocking at Sunday School. This one also had Christmas candy which I never liked.

After a big breakfast on Christmas Day we played outside if weather permitted. Then, next door to grandmother's for lunch. The long table in her dining room could seat 12 easily. There were more than 12 of us, however, and the younger children sat at a card table, also in the dining room. We had turkey, dressing, gravy, many vegetables, rolls, cranberry sauce (homemade), celery and other munchies and country ham. For dessert there was a choice of ambrosia, pecan and mincemeat pie, and fruit cake. The children had milk to drink, the adults coffee. After we were absolutely stuffed, my father and his brother found a handy bed in my grandparents' big house and fell asleep. The women cleared the table and the kitchen. We children played with our Christmas presents. From our aunts and uncle my sister and I got dolls, tea sets, paint sets and other small toys. There were games like Monopoly and Chinese checkers. My brother got sports equipment.

On Christmas night we went to my Aunt Bess's (1) in Driver, another small village in what is now Suffolk. Her table could seat as many people as my grandmother's. There we would have Christmas with my mother's half-sisters, her sister Anne (2), their husbands and their children. We children would receive presents again, and all of us would eat another big meal. Aunt Bess always had an abundance of fresh fruit which I loved. Her house, reached by a circular drive lined with boxwood, was over 100 years old and built from heart pine cut on the property. We children loved to play on the back stairs, narrow and twisting, which led to the upstairs hall. They were, I think, servants' stairs. Aunt Bess had only occasional cleaning and cooking help so the servants didn't use them much. Since Aunt Bess and Uncle Herbert had no children of their own they indulged all their nieces and nephews. Each year Aunt Bess took my brother, my sister and me to Norfolk to W. G. Swartz where we could select our Christmas present from her. Sometimes we each bought small Christmas presents for our parents though usually we bought those and presents for each other at Woolworth's in Suffolk.



Before the Christmas season was over we would have clam chowder with Aunt Florence and Uncle Ed (3). The clams were from Chuckatuck Creek and Uncle Ed made the chowder in a big iron pot. He was an extremely energetic man with a wealth of interests. Their Christmas tree had an electric train under it and a scene Uncle Ed made of a miniature cabin, a man with wood in a wheelbarrow, his wife, wearing an apron, and children looking at the train. That was one of my favorite Christmas sights.

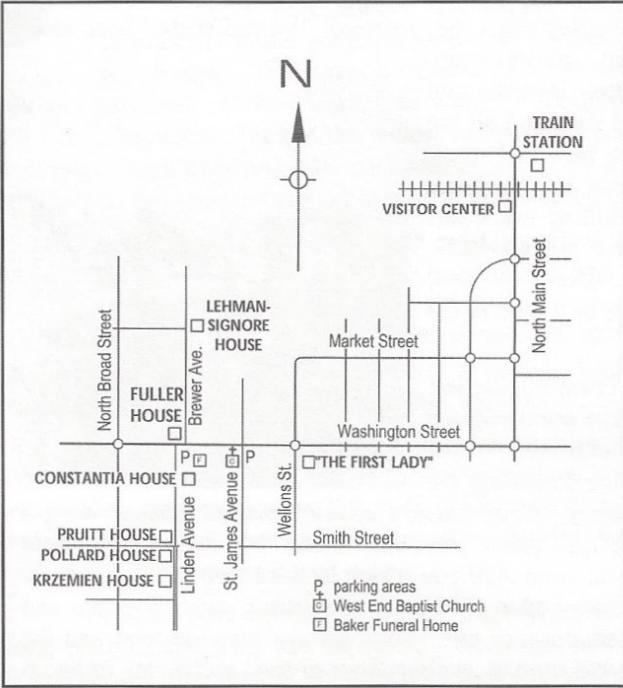
Notes:

1. Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Harrell
2. Mr. & Mrs. Carl Bagnell of Crittenden
3. Mr. & Mrs. Ed Ames of Driver

Picture bottom p. 9--Polly's mother and brother Billy in front of the house in Whaleyville.

Candlelight Tour 2008

Map of Tour Area



Please, no high heels, pets or cameras. No refunds.

Candlelight Tour Tickets

Tour tickets are available at Suffolk Visitor Center and Suffolk Seaboard Station Railroad Museum. Price \$15.00 in advance, \$18.00 on Tour days.

Tour tickets will be available at a tent near the Constantia House during Tour hours on December 6 and 7.

Sunday Night Dinner

A take-out barbecue dinner will be available Sunday night from West End Baptist Church next door to R.W. Baker & Co. Tickets should be purchased in advance. Tickets are \$8.00 per plate (BBQ, coleslaw, baked beans and corn muffin) and are available at the Suffolk Seaboard Station Railroad Museum, 326 N. Main Street.

Special Discounts

Ticket holders will receive 10% off at the Train Station gift shop on Tour days.

Diners will also receive 10% off dine-in meals at the following restaurants on December 6 & 7:

- *Amici's Pizza Café
157 E. Washington St.
- Baron's Pub
185 N. Main St.
- Kelly's Tavern
119 W. Constance Rd.
- *Mosaic Café
Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts
- *Pisces
115 N. Main St.
- *Primo 116 Bistro Italiano
116 W. Washington St.
- *Closed Sunday

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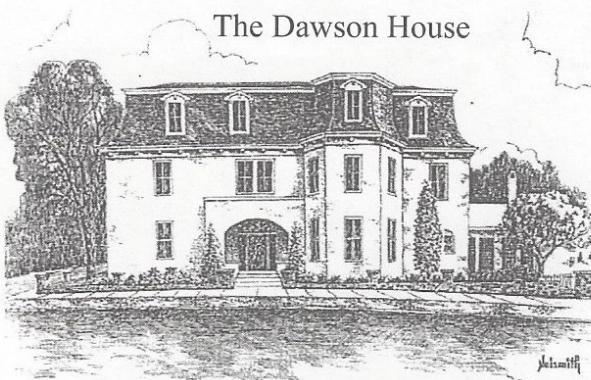
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Postscripts to our summer issue:

Found in the Charter Book in the Suffolk Circuit Court Clerk's Office: Coca-Cola was owned by H. L. Cross in 1922. The plant was at the rear of 133 S. Main St.

.. Bell Phone 119 ..

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Gifts and Memorials

To Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society

- From Shirley R. & Aubrey Fitzgerald
In memory of R. Braxton Hill
- From Lake Kilby Garden Club
- From Lena T. Small

To the Dawson House

- From Tom & Sue Woodward
In honor of Joe & Becky Clement; Burton, Emily, Bo, Harrison and Campbell Stewart; and Bill, Hunter, Griffin and Becca Duggan

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Karen Hughes
Scherry Johnson
Hunter Odom
Steve Jackson

Train Station Holiday Hours

Nov. 21 (Fri.)	10-4 & 6-8 pm)	City's Grand Illumination (6:30 Santa arrives (7:00 pm)
Dec. 6 (Sat.)	10-7 7 (Sun.) 1-7	Candlelight Tour Candlelight Tour
Dec. 10 (Wed.) through Dec. 23 (Tues.):		
Mon.-Sat.	10-4	
Sun.	1-4	
Dec. 24, 25, 26 (Wed.-Fri.)		CLOSED
Dec. 27 (Sat.)	10-4	
28 (Sun.)	1-4	
Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 (Wed. & Thurs.)		CLOSED
Jan. 2 (Fri.)	10-4	
3 (Sat.)	10-4	
Jan. 4 (Sun.)	1-4	



Congratulations to Suffolk Downtown, which thanks to the Greater Suffolk Council, received an Award of Merit from the Virginia Downtown Development Association.

The Suffolk Office of the Virginian-Pilot

deeply appreciates the generous business given by you and your firm during the past year, and wishes to extend to you its best wishes for

A Merry Christmas
and a
Happy and Prosperous
New Year



DAISY NURNEY

Like Miss Daisy (1873-1948), we appreciate your support and wish you a very happy holiday season and a happy new year. Read about Miss Daisy in our March 2008 Kings Fork issue.



SUFFOLK NANSEMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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